Calcoin News

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE

California State Numismatic Association

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Volume 9, Number 1

JANUARY, 1955

Spring Convention Headquarters

Headquarters for the spring convention of the California State Numismatic Association will be the Hotel Claremont, Oakland.

Perched high on the tree-studded slopes of the Berkeley Hills, this beautiful chalet is surrounded by 20 acres of gorgeous, flower-filled, exquisitely landscaped gardens.

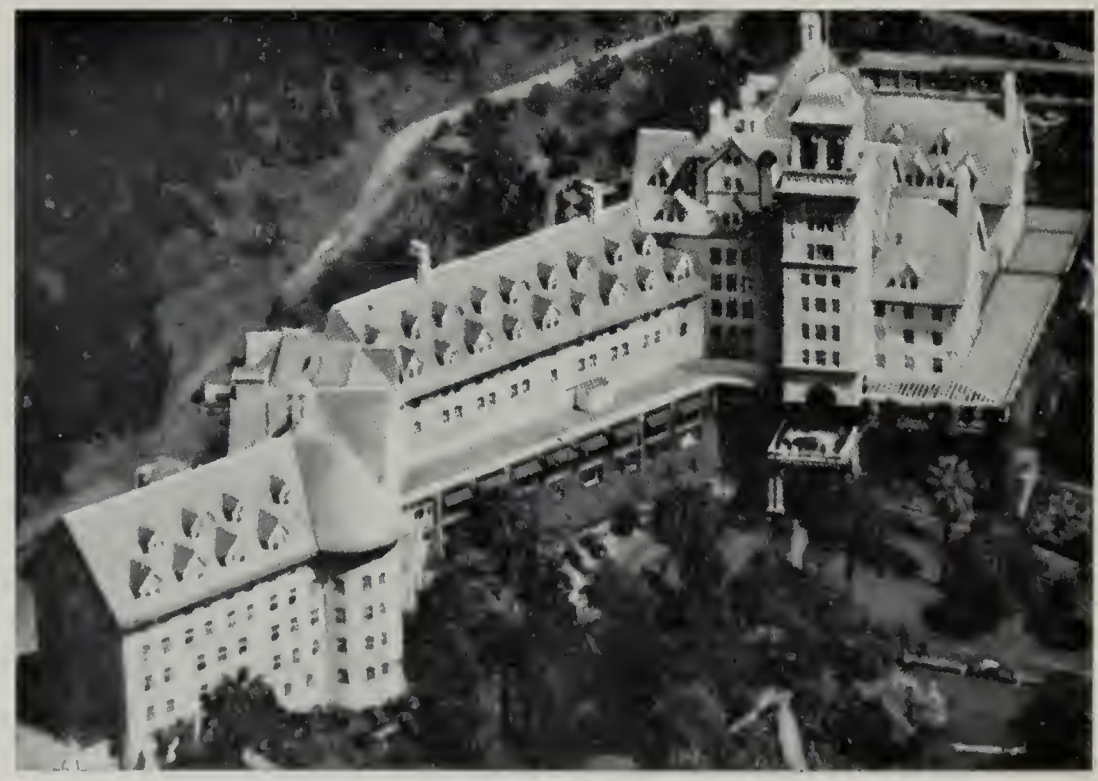
The Hotel Claremont has all the conveniences of a modern city hotel, yet is completely away from the noise and hurry of city life. Looking out from the hotel at a secluded height of 600 feet, one can see the magnificent panorama of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Only a short distance away is the bustling city of Oakland, and Berkeley, home of the University of California. The location is only 30 minutes away from the heart of San Francisco's theatrical district and only a few minutes from the pulsing tempo of metropolitan life in Oakland, Berkeley or San Francisco.

One may choose any number of delightful trips into the quiet, scenic Berkeley Hills, and in a few minutes find himself enjoying a real mountain holiday in the East Bay Regional Parks, 4500 acres of natural beauty that lie along the hills, overlooking the Bay Area.

The hotel boasts more than 300 rooms, single, double, or in combination, and a large free parking area.

Easily reached either with or without car from north, south or east, by bus, train, plane, or via U. S. Highways 99, 101, 40 and 50, the Claremont is ideally situated. Greyhound buses stop at the hotel, and Grayline tours leave from the hotel twice daily. Transbay trains for San Francisco leave from the Claremont grounds. San Francisco is but a 20-minute ride either by train or auto. The Oakland Airport is only 11 miles away.



HOTEL CLAREMONT, Oakland, headquarters for the 16th semi-annual convention of the California State Numismatic Association in April. The Emerald Room of the hotel is now the regular meeting place of the East Bay Coin Club, convention host.

Bronze Tangut Tablet Discovery

By CHARLES V. KAPPEN, *San Jose*

Announcement is made by the writer of his discovery of a bronze Tangut tablet while serving with the Army in the Far East in 1952-53.

This excessively rare piece is one of two such tablets known, the first having been reported by H. A. Ramsden in **The Numismatic and Philatelic Journal of Japan,** April, 1914, issue. Each of the two known specimens bears four characters in the Tangut script on the obverse, the characters differing on the two pieces. The reverse of the specimen reported by Ramsden has three characters, while the reverse of the writer's find is blank.

Tangut script continues to be an "unknown language" to philologists, even to the Chinese, who describe it as such in their dictionaries. Some Chinese numismatists attribute the script to "foreign" countries, while others believe it is sanscrit. According to Ramsden, recognition of the Tangut language was brought about principally by numismatists, as it was through coins inscribed with Tangut characters that equivalents of some of the signs have become known. Construction of the peculiar script remains unclear.

Ramsden wrote that the Tangut country was an independent state in Northwest China, the native tribes of which were closely allied with the Tibetans. The Mongols called these tribes "Tangut", and it was from this appellation that the country received its name. Founded by Li Te Ming in 1004, the state maintained absolute independence until Genghis Khan finally destroyed it in 1226, after it had existed only 222 years.

"The ruling dynasty," Ramsden said, "was called Hsi Hsia, or Western Hsia, in contradistinction to the regular Chinese dynasty of this same name and which ruled over the Flowery Land between B.C. 2205 and 1818.

"After the conquest by the Mongols, the country was divided into five districts, collectively called Kansu, a combination of the first portions of the names of its two principal cities, Kanchou and Suchou."

The present boundaries of Kansu province are about the same as they were in the days of the old Hsi Hsia or Tangut territories. The name, "Kansu", remains the same. The country was known to Marco Polo and other medieval travelers.

At the time of his writing in 1914, Ramsden listed the only genuine documents known which were written in Tangut as:

"1. An arch with hexaglot inscriptions in the Chu Yung Kuan near Peking, one of which is in Tangut.

2. The Ta Yun Ssu stele (stone monument at the Great Cloud Monastery giving the history of the Liangchou pagoda) at Liangchou-fu, having on one side Tan-

TANGUT TABLET, specimen reported by Prof. C. V. Kappen, San Jose. Now in the Ralph A. Mitchell collection. Actual size.

gut and on the other Chinese characters.

3. Three copper coins of the Western Hsia dynasty (found at Liangchou-fu about 1820) whose legends are in this script.
4. A bronze tablet with Tangut signs, in my (Ramsden's) collection and now published for the first time."

Ramsden conjectured that the bronze tablet, which had been sent to him from Lianchou, might be a passport, as such were used in earlier periods of Chinese history in the form of tags or tickets — or that it might be an amulet or talisman. Sosuke Sekine, Tokyo, in whose collection this second piece reposed for about 45 years, has suggested that it was used as a tax-paying coin. Sekine said he thought it had been issued by Chinese "barbarians" and was copied after the pu.

Certainly, as Ramsden suggested, the aperture "served undoubtedly for stringing or passing a strap or piece of cloth through, for hanging purposes." The Ramsden piece, though covered with patina, showed considerable service, as its edges were smooth and its surface polished from wear.

The Kappen piece is now in the odd and curious collection of Ralph A. Mitchell, Palo Alto, who obtained it from the writer.

Eight of our presidents have appeared on our commemorative coins.

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Vol. IX JANUARY, 1955 No. 1

Some Prices Realized At Riverside Auction

Leo A. Young and Earl A. Parker, who conducted the auction at the Riverside convention, report that many new records were set on coin sales. On 2617 lots offered, there were 856 mail and 116 floor bidders, with 731 actual purchasers of coins.

Following are some of the prices realized:

Lot No.		
16	1925 Ft. Vancouver 50c B.U.	$ 34.00
21	1928 Hawaiian 50c B.U.	90.00
31	1935PDS Boone Set Sm. 34 B.U.	105.00
60	1938PDS Boone Set B.U.	150.00
340	1895 $2.50 Gold Proof	38.00
369	1874CC $10 Gold Abt. Fine	39.00
370	1872CC $10 Gold F/VF	48.00
452	1895 Proof Dime	27.00
471	1914 Proof Dime	26.00
472	1915 Proof Dime	38.00
676	3 $20 Gold Pieces F & VF	134.00
934	1921D 50c B.U.	95.00
936	1923S 50c B.U.	99.00
979	1849 Oregon Beaver $5 Gold VF	287.50
980	1852 $50 Gold Slug VF	750.00
983	Complete Type Set Commemorative 50c Pieces Unc.	545.00
1073	1795 $10 Gold EF	210.00
1078	Panama Pacific Exposition Set, 5 Pcs. in Original Box	2025.00
1079	1848 Cal. Quarter Eagle Unc.	290.00
1080	Confederate 1861 50c Restrike	101.00
1099	1890CC $20 Gold Fine	135.00
1126	1793 Chain Cent VF/EF	210.00
1130	1793 Liberty Cap Cent VG/F	150.00
1177	1796 50c F/VF	410.00
1464	Judaea Silver Shekel, 1st Revolt VF	98.00
2280	1931S Cents Unc. Roll, 50 Pcs.	105.00

The Huguenot-Walloon half dollar of 1924 features William the Silent of the Netherlands (died 1584) and he is the only king ever to appear on our coins.

Who's Who In California Numismatics

GILBERT D. EATON

By W. H. Connell

When Gilbert (Gil) D. Eaton was born Nov. 3, 1896, he did not know that some day he actually would fulfill the prophecy of his proud parents, who remarked, "Some day that boy will be president." The remark of his parents, although commonplace here, was a bit unusual since Gil was born in Liverpool, England. Perhaps with that thought in mind, however, he migrated to this country.

He attended public schools in Lynn, Mass., then Springfield College, Northeastern University and Boston University.

There are those who whisper that he must have swum to America, as he acquired in 1933, and still holds, the world's long-distance backstroke swimming record of seven miles.

In school he participated in football, baseball, basketball, rowing, wrestling and swimming, activities which literally have kept him a boy. He has been executive director of the Boys' Clubs of Oakland since April 1, 1942. Before that he was assistant executive director of the Boys' Club of Boston, Mass.

He was president of the Boston city-wide Boys Workers' Conference, 1940-41; president of the Northern California Boys' Club Workers, 1942-46 and 1953-54; and first vice-president of the National Boys' Club Professional Association, 1953-54.

A past vice-president of the Oakland Lions Club, Eaton became president of the East Bay Coin Club in December, 1952, which position he still holds. He is general chairman of the CSNA convention to be held in Oakland, April 28-May 1.

Gil recalls a pleasant spring day

in 1924 when he was whistling his way along a street in a rather questionable Boston neighborhood, on his way to be interviewed for swimming director of the Boys' Clubs of Boston. Wearing well-pressed knickers and a crew-necked sweater, he approached a group of rather tough young men sitting on the curb. As he passed he was followed by a loud "raspberry". Indignantly, he turned on his heel and said, "Step up if any of you fellows wants to do anything about it." He proceeded to the club, where he was accepted and went to work. During his first day on the job, three of those who had emitted the "raspberry" entered the natatorium and asked if they could use the pool. "Why certainly, help yourselves," replied Gil, as he nudged them gently backward into the water with the quip, "He who laughs last laughs best."

Still in his teens, he met and married Miss Sara Mae Wesson Nov. 24, 1915. Now the father of three children and granddaddy of eight, Gil spends his spare time with his favorite hobbies, Indian head cents, buffalo nickels, proof sets, gardening, golfing and fishing. He loves antiques and though he considers himself one, intends to be around when Uncle Sam mints the 1995 proof sets.

Japanese Stamped Silver Yen

By CHARLES V. KAPPEN, *San Jose*

According to coinage regulations of the 4th year of Meiji (1871), the coinage system of Japan was a gold standard. In 1878 the 1-**yen** silver piece, which had been coined for use in treaty ports only, was made legal tender. By Imperial Ordinance No. 12 of the 11th year of Meiji (1878), the double standard system of gold and silver came into being, but by 1897 Japan was living under a **de facto** silver standard system.

In 1873, the ratio between gold and silver was 1 to 15.5. In 1876, the ratio stood at 1:17.88. By 1879 it was 1:18; in 1885, 1:19; 1891, 1:20.92; 1892, 1:23.72; 1893, 1:26.49; 1894, 1:32.56; 1895, 1:31.60; 1896, 1:30.66; and in 1897, 1:39.70. The better ratios for silver in 1895 and 1896 were caused by the mistaken beliefs that the Chinese indemnity would be paid in silver and that the silver party would win the United States presidential election.

Chief causes for the fall in the price of silver were attributed by the Japanese to the greatly increased output of silver since 1871 and the establishment of the German Empire, which undertook to unify the coinage systems of the various portions of the empire by replacing the silver currency then in use with gold. The Germans adopted a gold standard in 1873 and began to sell vast quantities of silver, causing its depreciation.

In 1873 the U.S. adopted a gold standard and stopped coining silver dollars, except trade dollars. France limited silver deposits at her mints. Norway and Sweden adopted gold standards in 1874, and the Latin Union countries limited silver coinage. In 1875, Holland stopped free coinage of silver and Switzerland ceased minting silver coins entirely. France, Belgium, Spain and Russia followed these examples in 1876, and the United States withdrew the legal tender qualification of her silver trade dollar. All these measures helped bring about a fall in the price of silver.

These fluctuations of the price of silver in the world's market at once influenced Japan's economic and financial condition, since she was a **de facto** silver standard country. Prices of commodities went up, speculation spread rapidly, and state expenditures increased because of the rapid depreciation in the price of silver.

English currency to be received by Japan as payment of the Chinese indemnity according to provisions of the treaty of peace signed April 17, 1895, paved the way for creation of the gold reserve necessary for adoption of a gold standard. The time was ripe for coinage reform.

Count Matsukata Masayoshi, minister of state for finance, submitted drafts of a coinage law to the cabinet council Feb. 25, 1897. The cabinet adopted the policy contained in the Matsukata memorandum March 1, 1897, and first reading took place in the House of Representatives March 3 of that year.

The coinage bills introduced were approved in whole by a committee of 27 members, who reported to the House of Representatives March 10. The bills were passed without amendment.

First reading in the House of Peers took place March 15. A committee of 15 members reported the bills March 23, and they were passed without amendment as Coinage Laws 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the 26th day of March of the 30th year of Meiji (1897).

Coinage Law No. 16 provided that the weight of two **fun** of pure gold should be the unit of the coinage and should be called **yen.** Japan thereby adopted a gold standard and ceased minting the silver **yen.** Article 16 of the law stated, "The 1-**yen** silver coin hitherto issued shall be gradually exchanged for gold coin, according to the convenience of the Government, at the rate of one gold **yen** for one silver **yen.** Pending the completion of that exchange, 1-**yen** silver coin shall be legal tender to any amount, at the rate of one silver **yen** for one gold **yen**; and the prohi-

bition of their circulation shall be announced six months in advance by Imperial Ordinance. If these coins are not presented for exchange within the period of five full years, reckoning from the day on which their circulation is prohibited, they shall be regarded thenceforth as bullion."

The government set up a coinage adjustment fund for exchange and retirement of the silver **yen.** Careful research was made to determine the amount of silver **yen** which would be brought in for exchange with gold coins. Existing gold coins were given twice the value of gold coins issued under the new law.

The gold coin quality was established at 900 parts pure gold and 100 parts copper; the silver coins (legal tender to the amount of 10 **yen**) at 800 parts pure silver and 200 parts copper. Nickel and bronze coins were made legal tender up to the amount of 1-**yen.** No provision was made for the minting of 1-**yen** gold pieces as they would be so small in weight as to be inconvenient for daily transaction. Gold pieces of 5-, 10- and 20-**yen** denominations were struck.

Foreign banks at treaty ports feared that if the Japanese retirement policy for the silver **yen** were to proceed as planned, it would lead to a change in the market ratio between gold and silver. They notified their customers, therefore, that after Oct. 1, effective date of the coinage law, they would reserve the right to say whether specie payments could be made in silver or in gold.

This spurred withdrawal of the 1-**yen** silver coin. Coinage Law No. 5 of June 1, 1898, specified that "The exchange of 1-**yen** silver coins shall cease with the 31st day of July of the 31st year of Meiji (1898)."

The aggregate total of 1-**yen** silver coins retired under the law and of the silver bullion corresponding to the promissory notes of the mint to pay coins, also retired, was 75,093,822 **yen** 4 **sen** 2 **rin.** Of this sum, 27,567,011 **yen** 58 **sen** 4 **rin** went into the minting of subsidiary coins; 40,786,662 **yen** 45 **sen** 8 **rin** was sold at Hongkong, Shanghai and elsewhere, and 6,740,148 **yen** was sent to Formosa, Korea and Wei-hai-wei, to be placed in circulation in those places. Final disposal of the retired 1-**yen** silver coins and the silver bullion was completed in December, 1898.

In making the disposal as stated above, according to Count Matsukata, finance minister, "it was feared that if 1-**yen** silver coins were sold abroad in a perfect condition within the period allowed for their exchange, they would return again to be exchanged. For this reason it was decided to have the word 'silver' stamped on their face at the Mint that they should henceforth cease to be legal tender."* Count Matsukata instructed the Mint Bureau Sept. 9, 1897, as follows:

"The one-yen silver coin which shall be received by the Government in exchange for gold shall from time to time be forwarded to the Mint. The Mint shall after due examination stamp on its face an impress as shown below and return it to the Government Treasury.

"The Mint Bureau shall make arrangements so that the examination and stamping above mentioned may also be done at the Tokyo Branch of the Mint and submit the same for sanction.

"The Mint shall make an estimate of the expenses incidental to carrying out the above mentioned examination and stamping and submit the same for sanction.

"The form of the stamp to be placed on the silver **yen** shall be as follows:

— one **bu** and five **rin** in diameter." The stamp illustrated here has been enlarged to twice the diameter.

In accordance with these instructions, 20,450,000 coins were stamped, 18,350,000 at the Osaka Mint and 2,100,000 at its Tokyo Branch.

As The Coinage Law of 1897 was to go into effect in October of that year, the policy of Japan in regard to the coinage system of Formosa (Tai-wan Sotoku-Fu) was brought to the fore. Before passage of the coinage reform laws in Japan, however, Imperial Ordinance No. 9 of Jan. 28, 1897, had placed the minister of state for finance in charge of the currency and banking administration of Formosa. The governor-general of Formosa was to act under the finance minister's supervision in matters of currency and banking.

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*Masayoshi, Matsukata. *Report on the Adoption of the Gold Standard in Japan.* Tokyo, 1899.

The minister of finance decided to enforce the gold standard in Formosa, but to use silver as far as possible in actual monetary transactions. His policy also was "to permit the existence of a market rate of exchange between gold and silver, in cases of large monetary transactions", and "to permit for the time being the use of silver bullion in public payments to the Government".

He believed a government mark should be placed on the 1-**yen** silver piece which was to be retired, and that the coin's use should then be allowed on the island. The minister submitted a memorandum to this effect to the cabinet Sept. 22, which was approved.

Imperial Ordinance No. 374 was issued Oct. 20, 1897, establishing that "The one-**yen** silver coin, with a Government stamp mark on it, may be used in Formosa for payment either to or by the Government. The payment by the Government shall only be made with the consent of the payee." The stamped silver **yen** was not legal tender but was accepted in payment of taxes and other public dues.

STAMPED YEN, both types. The two coins, pictured actual size, are from the C. V. Kappen collection.

First shipment of stamped silver **yen** to Formosa was made Oct. 12, 1897, and shipments continued as needed. When the exchange of silver **yen** was halted in July, 1898, the unstamped silver **yen** was put into circulation again in Formosa. Ordinance No. 19 of the Government of Formosa, dated July 31, 1898, put this policy into effect. Shipments of the stamped silver **yen** to Formosa came to an end and the retired unstamped silver **yen** there replaced it.

Of 6,212,973 one-**yen** silver coins disbursed in Formosa at current valuation under the coinage reform laws, 2,100,000 were of the stamped variety.

Stamped **yen** put in circulation in Korea totaled 330,000. Shipment of the defaced coins to Korea began in fulfillment of a request made in August, 1897, by the president of the First Bank of Korea. Count Matsukata on Oct. 21 ordered the Bank of Japan to obtain 30,000 stamped **yen** from the Osaka Government Treasury and to deliver them to the First Bank at once for forwarding to its branch at Jinsen (Chemulpo), Korea.

The stamped **yen** were to be exchanged at par value for undefaced ones circulating in Korea, and the unstamped **yen** thus obtained were to be sent back from time to time to the Osaka Branch of the Bank of Japan. Expenses involved in the transaction were to be paid by the government.

Subsequent shipments of stamped coins were made as requested by the First Bank, until a total of 330,000 had been sent to Korea.

The army of occupation at Wei-hai-wei requested 50,000 **yen** in 1-**yen** silver coin in November, 1898. The government sent that amount in the stamped **yen**, a practice that was repeated as need arose. The total of stamped **yen** sent to Wei-hai-wei was 197,175. Wei-hai-wei, seaport and treaty port of N. Shantung, China, was occupied by the Japanese Army as guarantee for fulfillment of terms of the Chinese indemnity treaty of 1895.

The remainder of the stamped

silver **yen** was sold or otherwise disposed of as follows: 1,069,825 coins were transferred to the mint bureau to be melted into subsidiary coins; 550,000 were transferred to and sold in Shanghai; 13,953,000 were transferred to and sold in Hongkong; and 2,250,000 were sold to foreign banks.

The coinage reform enabled the Japanese to avoid the bad effects of fluctuations in the price of silver.

The story of the stamped silver **yen,** present in crowns of the world, Japanese, Formosan, Korean and trade dollar collections, is a portion of the story of Japanese coinage reform at the close of the 19th Century.

THE END

Drs. Emmons, Curtis Are Ill in Hospitals

Drs. Calvert L. Emmons, Ontario, and C. Glenn Curtis, Brea, are hospitalized at Upland and Orange, respectively, it was reported at presstime. Dr. Emmons has a leg ailment which prevents his walking, while Dr. Curtis is hospitalized for a heart condition.

Directory In March

The annual directory of California State Numismatic Association members will be published in the March issue of **Calcoin News.** This will permit the listing of those members who pay dues after first of the year.

Deadline for the directory will be Feb. 4. Those who have failed to pay 1954 dues by then will be dropped as delinquent from the CSNA membership rolls and their names will not appear in the directory.

The $ mark never was adopted officially by the United States government.

In March Issue

THE FOUR EMPIRES OF MEXICO

By DR. A. F. PRADEAU
La Crescenta

General Chairman Names Committees

Gilbert D. Eaton, general chairman for the CSNA spring convention, April 28 - May 1, inclusive, has announced appointment of the following committee chairmen:

Co-vice chairmen, Frederick J. Monteagle and Kenneth P. Allen; registration, Don Thrall; finance, Don Crosman; exhibits, Roy Hill; publicity, Frederick J. Monteagle; bourse, Ed Fogler; entertainment, Frank X. Galvin; and hospitality, Mrs. Walter Fieberling and Stanley S. Hawley.

Collectors who plan to exhibit should reserve display cases by writing to Roy Hill, 1140 Sutter St., San Francisco 9, Calif. A charge of 50 cents per case is made to help defray storage and transportation costs of cases. Dealers may apply for bourse space to Ed Fogler, 404 12th St., Oakland, Calif. The charge is $15.

Plans are incomplete at presstime, but a full account of convention activities will appear in the March issue of **Calcoin News.**

Claremont Rates

Two rooms with connecting bath: two persons, $10 to $13; three persons, $12 to $15; four persons, $14 to $18. Parlor-bedroom suites: one person, $12 to $17; two persons, $14 to $20; third person in suite, $2.50 extra. Two-bedroom and parlor suites: two persons, $20 to $25; three persons, $23 to $26; four persons, $25 to $29; additional person, $2.50 extra. One person with bath, single, $5 to $11. Double or twin with bath: two persons, $8 to $13; third person, $2 extra. Rooms without bath: one person, $3 to $3.50; two persons, $5 to $5.50.

Calvin Coolidge was the first and only president to see his own portrait on a U.S. coin, a commemorative half dollar of 1926.

* * *

Queen Isabella of Spain is the only foreign queen to appear on our coins. This was on the commemorative quarter dollar of 1893.

California Club News, Views, and Whos

Writeups of local coin club meetings and activities should be addressed to W. H. Connell, assistant editor, 2009 86th Ave., Oakland 21, Calif. It will be appreciated if correspondents will include names and addresses of 1955 officers in their next reports. Changes in time, date, or place of club meeting should be reported promptly. If a complete roster of club membership is sent to the editor, it will enable him to check name spellings and to write in first names or initials when these are unintentionally omitted from the writeups. Deadline for receipt of material is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

East Bay Coin Club

Meets 2nd Friday, 8 P.M., at Hotel Claremont, Oakland

Congressman-elect John Baldwin addressed the Nov. 11 meeting of the East Bay Coin Club on "The Use of Military Currency in Warfare". The meeting was held in the Emerald Room of the Hotel Claremont, with 54 members and 28 guests present. Dan Redmond, vice-president and chairman for the evening, introduced the speaker.

Baldwin's talk covered the issuance, use and redemption of military currency during World War II. He said there are two major rules which must be followed in the issuance of currency to troops in time of war. The first is to protect the currency from falling into enemy hands during a retreat. He explained the way in which this was applied when the Japanese invaded the Philippine Islands. This same rule was the reason for imprinting "HAWAII" on the currency in use on those islands.

The second rule, he said, is to issue a currency to troops which is acceptable to the population at the point of invasion. The gold seal silver certificates were the first true invasion currency issued, the reason for the gold seal being the same as for the Hawaii imprint. Italian lira was the first Allied invasion currency. Special currency was designed for each area entered. Immediately following entry, a proclamation was issued declaring that the new currency would be acceptable at par with local currency.

All worked smoothly until the invasion of Germany with the Russians. The Russians, using plates furnished by the U.S., kept their press busy, which resulted in a "raid" on the U.S. Treasury. About six months was required to design and produce a new invasion currency.

The problem of setting an exchange rate was explained, as was the method of making a change from one rate to another. Upon issuance of a new currency by a freed country to replace all existing currencies, many collaborationists were caught with too much currency.

Kits were furnished airmen so that if shot down, they could get by in any area.

Exhibits, accompanied by brief talks, were made by Ken Allen, Clifford Bloom, H. F. Bowker, Alan D. Craig, Walter Gerth, Rudy Gjurovich, Sidney Haas, Roy Hill, Charles V. Kappen, E. A. Parker, Charles N. Peters, Arnold Rosing and Don Thrall.

Frank Galvin announced that John Schreuder, a member of the board of governors, was in the hospital preparatory to undergoing a major operation.

Walter Fieberling, nominations committee chairman, presented the following slate for 1955: Gilbert Eaton, president; Ken Allen, vice-president; Don Thrall, recording secretary; Mary Goodrich, corresponding secretary; Don Crosman, treasurer; and Thelma Fieberling, Jack Frost and Roy Hill, board of directors.

* * *

The Oct. 15 meeting was attended by 53 members and 31 guests. Gilbert D. Eaton, president, welcomed all present to this first meeting in our new permanent location, the Hotel Claremont. He introduced member Claude Gillum, owner-manager of the hotel.

Fred Monteagle introduced Herbert Swain of the Yuba Manufacturing Co., who spoke on "Gold Dredging in California". Swain described the development of the dredge in California, and its use for recovering metals other than gold, and for gems.

Walt Ritchie gave a brief report on the Coinival. There were 180 persons who signed the register, 35 more than last year. The Coinival boasted many fine exhibits, including portions of the Kagin reference collection; a six-dealer bourse; an auction of 225 lots; entertainment by Boys' Club members; and a delicious ham dinner.

Exhibitors: Ken Allen, Clifford Bloom, M. K. Carr, Alan Craig, Edward Gans, Walter G. Gerth, Sidney Haas, Stanley S. Hawley, John E. Ohls, E. A. Parker, Charles N. Peters, D. L. Rhodes, Arnold Rosing and Don Thrall.

Membership applications were received from John Amos West, 830 Rockdale Dr., San Francisco 27, and Robert W. Sale, 191 Cleopatra Dr., Oakland.

—Don T. Thrall,
Recording Secretary.

Los Angeles Coin Club

Meets 1st Friday, 8 P.M., at
Foresters' Hall, Los Angeles

Dr. Charles Harbeck, charter member and former president of the Los Angeles Coin Club, spoke on "Religion and Coinage" at the 319th regular meeting Oct. 1 at Foresters' Hall. President W. R. Fanning welcomed 87 members and guests to the meeting.

Dr. Harbeck has an extensive collection of classical coins, and cited examples from among those as well as from modern coins to trace man's acknowledgment of God (and gods) on coins. He pointed out that most of the ancient Greek and Roman coins depict some god or goddess, and that the earliest banking establishments were maintained in the temples.

From ancient times, through the middle ages, and to the present, the coinage of most nations of the world bears some legend or symbol of religious significance, Dr. Harbeck said.

Among the many coins exhibited by the speaker to illustrate his talk were the earliest Greek bronze, c. 300 B.C., of Syracuse, showing head of Athene; a Roman coin of Claudius, A.D. 41-54, depicting Ceres, goddess of agriculture; a Roman coin of Magnentius, A.D. 350-353, on which the words "alpha" and "omega" appear, denoting the Christian influence; and a papal coin of Pius II, 1458-1464, depicting Saints Peter and Paul on reverse.

President Fanning announced that the club's annual banquet and installation of officers will be held at Scully's Restaurant, 48th St. and Crenshaw Blvd., Saturday, Jan. 15. An invitation is extended to all neighboring coin clubs to participate in this affair.

After refreshments and a door-prize drawing, George Bennett conducted the auction.

—William H. Spence,
Secretary.

Long Beach Coin Club

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 8 P.M., at
350 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach

Chief G. L. Weirs, retiring from the U.S. Navy, described and showed many historical coins at the 53rd meeting of the Long Beach Coin Club Oct. 19, 8 p.m., at 350 East Ocean Blvd.

President Abel Sampson called the meeting to order and Secretary E. L. Sims read minutes of the last meeting.

Among coins commented on by Chief Weirs was a piece of eight, a coin minted in Mexico City in the 17th and 18th Centuries and used by the American Colonies until 1857. This probably was the coin Washington threw across the Delaware River (if so he did). From cut portions of the coin we derived our expressions "two-bits", "four-bits", etc.

The speaker showed a Maria Theresa thaler dated 1780, and said the suspicious natives would accept no other date. The coin still is minted bearing the date 1780 and circulates in Arabia, Africa and the Near East.

Chief Weirs displayed cowries, shells used as money longer than any other media known. They still are used in parts of Africa and China, according to Weirs. The value of

the "coin" depends upon its color, which ranges from deep blue or gray to pink, he said.

Several ancient coins used before 40 B.C. were shown. One historic Roman coin depicted Julius Caesar, dictator, on the obverse. On the reverse was inscribed "veni, vidi, vici", the conqueror's slogan (I came, I saw, I conquered). Another coin showed Galba, the farmer who became emperor of Romc. On its reverse were the Roman legions appearing before thc Forum.

Carl Brainard reported on activities at the California State Numismatic Association convention held at Riverside in October.

—Mrs. Norma Boldman Pyle,
Publicity Chairman.

San Bernardino County Coin Club

Meets 3rd Thursday, 8 P.M., at Legion Hall, 631 "G" St., San Bernardino

The 76th regular meeting of the San Bernardino County Coin Club was held Oct. 21 at 631 "G" St., San Bernardino, with 38 members and guests present. Don Posey was welcomed into membership.

The program was a showing of the last series of ANA slides. Andy Verbance was commentator and Bryan Burke, projectionist. Verbance displayed nine bills from his collection that were shown on the slides.

Present officers will be retained for 1955 as the result of a motion by Herb Feinberg, which carried. They are John Yribarne, president; Dale E. Howard, vice-president; Fred Coops, secretary; Mrs. Ernest C. Kessler, recording secretary; Herb Feinberg, treasurer; and Bryan Burke Jr., program chairman. Members of the board of directors are Bryan Burke, O. L. Arnold, Bland Haydon, Charles Colver and Ben Coon. Dr. Calvert L. Emmons will serve permanently as an honorary member of the board.

Exhibits were made by W. V. Barrett, fractional currency; Ernest C. Kessler, proof sets; L. L. Brown, ancient coins; and Herb Feinberg, complete sets of Lincoln cents, mis-strike cents, and a rare silver cent piece. Fred Coops had a bourse table.

At roll call, each member arose to give his name and collecting specialty. The idea is conducive to trading, as members learn whom to contact for duplicates of certain coins.

L. L. Brown, Charles Colver and Eastman reported on the CSNA convention at Riverside. Colver expressed the hope that efforts be made to hold all future state conventions in Riverside.

President John Yribarne said our monthly attendance is the highest of any coin club, based on percentage of paid-up members. Dale Howard, chairman of a committee for preparing a brochure of the club's activities, reported that the committee has completed its task and that copies are available from Secretary Coops.

Bryan Burke announced that Herb Bergen would be speaker at the November meeting and would talk on his recent tour of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.

Herb Feinberg conducted the auction, after which refreshments, furnished by Mrs. Snyder and John Yribarne, were served.

—Mrs. Ernest C. Kessler,
Recording Secretary.

San Diego Numismatic Society

Meets 1st Monday, 8 P.M., at YMCA Auditorium, 1115 8th Ave., San Diego

The San Diego Numismatic Society will hold its eighteenth annual banquet and installation of officers Saturday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., at the San Diego Woman's Club, 2557 Third Ave., San Diego.

Guest speaker will be Don Sherer of Phoenix, Ariz., who recently was elected to the board of governors of the American Numismatic Association.

Price of the dinner will be $3. Reservations with remittance may be sent to the secretary at 120 Upas St., San Diego 3, Calif. Special arrangements are being made for exhibits. Those planning to attend are urged to put coins on display.

—Francis S. Jones,
Secretary.

Orange County Coin Club

Meets 4th Wednesday, 8 P.M., at Woman's Clubhouse, Brea

The 196th regular monthly meeting of the Orange County Coin Club was held at the Woman's Clubhouse, Brea, Oct. 27, with 102 members and guests present. Two new members were admitted to membership.

Announcement was made of the appointment of the nominating committee for officers to be elected for the year 1955. Those named were John Haldiman, chairman, Howard Robinson, Harry Hanson, Stewart Bingham and Frank Hall.

President Harry Davidson called for comments from those who attended the California State Numismatic Association convention at Riverside, Oct. 7-14. All agreed that it was a most successful meeting and that the Orange County Coin Club should be proud of its sponsorship. Herb Bergen, convention chairman, gave a resume of convention events and a report of attendance and accounts.

The program chairman introduced S. J. Kabealo of Pasadena, speaker for the evening. His subject, "U.S. Quarter Dollars", was received with great interest by the audience. Illustrating his subject, the speaker displayed a set of these coins in superb condition from the collection of I. Newton Sanders, San Gabriel. Particular attention was paid by Kabealo to changes in design and numerous rarities in the series. He asserted that it has been the backward item of U.S. coins from a collector's standpoint, but that more and more collectors are giving it attention.

It was announced that the November meeting of the club will feature displays by members and that each exhibitor will be called upon to give a brief talk about his display.

Following the program, refreshments were served and then came the regular auction under direction of Joe Steele.

—Herb Bergen,
Secretary.

San Jose Coin Club

Meets 1st Monday, 8 P.M., at Hotel DeAnza, San Jose

President Austen D. Warburton welcomed 27 members and guests to the 97th meeting of the San Jose Coin Club Nov. 1. A new member, F. D. Robinson, San Jose, was introduced. The meeting was held in the DeAnza Hotel.

During a short business meeting, a committee was appointed to arrange for the club's centennial meeting in February, 1955.

C. V. Kappen, nominations committee member, presented the following slate for 1955: Austen D. Warburton, president; Roy Hill, vice-president; Miss Beverly Gayle Smith, secretary; Vincent Guarnera, treasurer; and William R. Weber, Rudy Gjurovich and George Hodges, board of directors.

Displays were commented on briefly as follows: Roy Hill, exceptionally choice aes grave, new Canadian $1 bill, collection of post cards of various mint buildings, and prize ribbon for his Riverside CSNA exhibit; Rudy Gjurovich, first prize trophy for his participation in the Vallejo Centennial parade as comic; Vincent Guarnera, two goblets inscribed with gold coins of the world; Del Bland, uncirculated Lincoln cents dating from 1934; John Serpa, Liberty standing quarters; and Major Charles V. Kappen, tin hat money of Malaya.

George Hodges, speaker of the evening, who had just returned from a trip East, related experiences of his trip, illustrated with broken bank bills and Confederate bill forgeries. He also showed an autographed baseball and a World Series ticket for an unplayed game. (A Giant raincheck?)

An auction of 18 lots was conducted by Major Kappen.

—Syl C. Tully Jr.,
Secretary Pro Tem

PCNS

Meets last Wednesday, 8 P.M., at Palace Hotel, San Francisco

Don Thrall spoke on "Transportation Tokens" at the Oct. 27 meeting, attended by 31 members and nine guests. Twenty-two persons exhibited. A nominations committee for 1955 officers was appointed, composed of Milton Strauch, David Redfield and one person of their choice.

Convention Date, Chairman Named

Nov. 10-13, inclusive, the 1955 fall convention of the CSNA will be held at the U. S. Grant Hotel in San Diego.

General chairman for the convention will be Francis S. Jones, secretary of the San Diego Numismatic Society. The appointment was made by Dr. N. A. Bowers, CSNA president.

PAID YOUR DUES?

Send your $2 annual dues now to R. G. McArthur, secretary-treasurer, 2377 Grande Vista Place, Oakland 1, Calif. The $2 dues includes your **Calcoin News** subscription at no extra cost.

Coin Facts

The eagle is shown on 10 of our commemorative coins; the owl on one.

* * *

One of our commemorative half dollars, the Captain Cook-Hawaiian issue of 1928, pictures a Hawaiian chief in full regalia.

* * *

Of the animals used on our coin designs, the horse is the most popular, having been used four times. The bear is second, appearing twice. Other interesting animal types include the moose, oxen, cow, calf, catamount, badger, and beaver.

Porcelain Gambling Tokens

"On our return to Penyow, our servant came to me with a long face, complaining that the people had given him some pieces of pottery instead of change, and asked what he should do. On looking at them, I found they were octagonal in shape, and stamped on one side with Chinese characters. After showing them to Dr. M'Gilvary, he said they were the ordinary gambling currency of the place, and represented two-anna and four-anna pieces. It appears that the gambling monopolist has the right to float them, and they are in general use amongst the people as small change. They remain current as long as the Chinese monopolist is solvent or has the monopoly. If he loses it, he calls the tokens in by sending a crier around, beating a gong and informing the people that he is ready to change the tokens for money. Dr. M'Gilvary said that such tokens formed the sole small change at Zimme before the Bangkok copper currency supplanted them."

A Thousand Miles on an Elephant in the Shan States, by Holt S. Hallett, London, 1890.

The above excerpt and "Siamese Shenanigans" (**Calcoin News,** July, 1951) are reprinted as the standard work on Siamese coinage. **The Coinage of Siam** by Reginald Le May, which was published by The Siam Society in Bangkok in 1932, makes no mention whatsoever of any governmental issues in lead. Joseph Haas, in his article entitled "Siamese Coinage", published in the **Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society** for 1879, likewise makes no mention of a leaden coinage for Siam, although he does enumerate some pewter or tin issues for the vassal states of Ligor, Sangura, Tringano, Kedah, and Siamese Cambodia.

It is unlikely that the coins mentioned were actually made of lead, but rather of a tin alloy, and are undoubtedly those listed in **Coins of the World, 19th Century** as Nos. 15 and 16.

The Dr. McGilvary mentioned by Hallett was Dr. Daniel MacGilvary, who was eminent in missionary circles in Siam for more than 60 years, and is prominently mentioned in the book, **Anna and the King of Siam.**

—PCNS *Numismatic Bulletin,* June, 1951.

Convention Facts and Figures

Riverside, Oct. 7-10, 1954

CSNA RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
(As reported by Orange County Coin Club)

RECEIPTS:

Bourse, 24 @ $15	$360.00
Display Cases, 175 @ 50 cents (includes OCCC cases)	35.00
Registration, 232 members and visitors:	
a. single registration @ $2 (86)	172.00
b. combination registration @ $1.40 (146) (registration, banquet, luncheon @ $7.50)	204.40
Total CSNA Receipts	$771.40

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing, programs, tickets, etc.	$224.30
Ribbons and badges, Ed Fogler	51.00
Police protection, Riverside police	150.00
Postage, mailing programs (addressing by OCCC)	16.12
Flowers, banquet and luncheon	15.60
Banquet meals, Riverside mayor and wife	6.50
Petty cash expense, signs, stationery supplies	10.00
	$473.52
Check to CSNA	$297.88
Total Disbursements	$771.40

REPORT OF CSNA SECRETARY:

Received from Orange County Coin Club			$297.88
Less Disbursements:	Transporting cases	$37.50	
	Printing and signs	9.88	
	Hotel electricians	10.00	57.38
Balance — Profit to the Association			$240.50

REGISTRATION FIGURES

Members	125	Fashion luncheon	43
Guests	107	Club breakfast	19
		Ladies card party	28
Total registration	232	Attendance at banquet	250
Aquacade luncheon	118	Attendance at luncheon	143

REGISTRATION BY CITIES

Los Angeles	31	Hollywood	3	Ontario	2
San Diego	18	La Verne	3	Pasadena	2
San Francisco	13	Santa Barbara	3	Redlands	2
Oakland	11	Santa Monica	3	Riverside	2
Huntington Beach	8	Whittier	3	San Luis Obispo	2
Burbank	7	Arcadia	2	San Marino	2
Fullerton	7	Atherton	2	Visalia	2
San Bernardino	7	Berkeley	2	Vista	2
Santa Ana	6	Costa Mesa	2	Alhambra	1
Daly City	4	Fontana	2	Artesia	1
Lockeford	4	Glendale	2	Carmel	1
Long Beach	4	Hanford	2	Chatsworth	1
Azusa	3	Huntington Park	2	Colton	1
Beverly Hills	3	Lakewood	2	Compton	1
Brea	3	Newport Beach	2	Encino	1
Garden Grove	3	North Hollywood	2	Fallbrook	1

Ghost Town	1	Taft	1	Chicago, Ill.	3
Lafayette	1	Temple City	1	Des Moines, Iowa	1
La Mesa	1	Upland	1	St. Louis, Mo.	2
Live Oak	1	Vallejo	1	Fallon, Nev.	2
Manhattan Beach	1	**OUT-OF-STATE**		Reno, Nev.	1
Monterey Park	1	Phoenix, Ariz.	5	Medford, Ore.	2
Palo Alto	1	Tucson, Ariz.	1	Portland, Ore.	2
Santa Maria	1	Pueblo, Colo.	2	Salt Lake City, Utah	1
Santa Rosa	1	Atlanta, Ga.	1	Seattle, Wash.	2

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

627	ADKINSON, James	322 W. Ortega, Santa Barbara, Calif.
630	ALLEE, Raymond	21 W. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz.
625	CHAPMAN, E. G.	3960 5th St., Riverside, Calif.
641	COHEN, Harold	502 State St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
631	COOK, Kenneth	Glendale, Ariz.
635	CURRIER, Dr. W. D.	65 N. Madison Ave., Pasadena, Calif.
629	EICHNER, Dr. Henry M.	2516 S. Purdue, Los Angeles, Calif.
640	GORDON, Jack J.	1246 La Cienega, Los Angeles 35, Calif.
639	HARMON, Clarence	101 Oak Ave. S.E., Mountain View, Calif.
633	JAMGOCHIAN, N. V.	1340 Rossmoyne, Glendale, Calif.
636	KRAAI, Nelson	2120 S. 2nd Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
638	MOSTIN, Julian	R.F.D. Rt. No. 1, Lakeport, Calif.
634	PELTRET, Louise L.	1121½ Browning Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.
637	SANDERS, Ben	528 State St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
628	SHERER, Don	2212 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.
626	VERBANCE, Andrew	721 Spruce St., San Bernardino, Calif.
632	WARD, Perry O.	1130 Meadowbrook Ave., Los Angeles 19, Calif.

REINSTATEMENTS

68	WEIGER, Paul	853½ W. 50th St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.

ADDRESS CHANGES

270	BUZZELL, Edward	230 N. Carmelina, Los Angeles 49, Calif.
124	FISH, Edward	Miners Bank, Ghost Town, Calif.
419	HERNANDEZ, Frank P.	215 E. Cedar St., El Cajon, Calif.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Cash on hand Oct. 1, 1954			$359.93
Receipts:	1954 dues	$ 28.00	
	1955 dues	22.00	
	Calcoin News	200.00	
	Convention (Riverside)	297.88	$547.88
Total Receipts			$907.81
Disbursements:	Postage and supplies	$ 94.02	
	Calcoin News	243.76	
	Convention (Riverside)	16.00	$353.78
Cash on hand Dec. 1, 1954			$554.03

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Oct. 1, 1954			390
Additions:	New members	17	
	Reinstated	1	18
Total			408
Losses:	Suspended	3	3
Net membership Dec. 1, 1954			405

R. G. McARTHUR, Secretary.